

and to put personal political peeves above the national security interests of the United States.

In addition to purging individuals from some of our top national security agencies, the President is prohibiting the government of the United States, which belongs to the people of the United States, from providing daily intelligence briefings and other intelligence briefings to the incoming President, President-Elect Joe Biden.

Now, we all know that President Trump has been notorious for not being interested in those intelligence briefings, but I think that for all of us who know Joe Biden from the time he served as Senator and Vice President, we know he takes these things seriously and he takes threats that might be learned through those intelligence briefings seriously. To deny the next President of the United States access to those briefings, which is part of the tradition and part of the rules that we developed to ensure steady transfer and making sure the next President has the information needed on day one, that is outright grossly negligent when it comes to our national security. It is time for our Senate Republican colleagues to be speaking out loudly about that.

That, of course, is part of the consequence of the fact that the General Services Administration has been unwilling to provide the traditional funds to support the peaceful transfer of power. This is another gross abuse of the government, which belongs to the people of the United States, not to Donald Trump.

In addition, you have the Secretary of State, Secretary Pompeo, instructing the Department of State not to pass along messages from foreign leaders to the next President of the United States, President-Elect Joe Biden. This is, again, another gross abuse of power. And, of course, Secretary Pompeo undermined this faith in our transition of democracy himself when he talked about the fact that we are transitioning to the second Trump term.

This is the person—this is the individual—who is supposed to represent the United States of America overseas, the person who is supposed to stand up for our democracy, and yet, here, at home he is undermining faith in that democracy. And who does that give any comfort to? Our adversaries and enemies abroad, people who want our democracy to fail.

I don't know if our Republican colleagues have noticed who has congratulated the President-Elect Joe Biden and who has not among foreign leaders. Well, our democratic allies around the world have congratulated the next President of the United States, Joe Biden. The United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada—the leaders of democratic governments and countries have all acknowledged that our democracy is working and that they are recognizing the next President of the United States.

Who has refused, so far, to congratulate the next President of the United States, Joe Biden? Vladimir Putin, President Xi, and the leader of North Korea. What President Trump is doing and what our Republican colleagues are doing by their silence is aiding and abetting these authoritarian leaders. These guys are smiling. If you are an authoritarian leader, you want nothing more than to see democracy fail—to see that model fail. These are leaders who often have their own sort of election facades, where they pretend to have a free and fair election, and then it turns out to be 90 percent for them. They are smiling at what is happening here.

So I hope our Republican Senate colleagues are looking at the company they are keeping among foreign leaders who are watching us, because the leaders of our democratic friends and allied countries have all recognized the outcome of this election, and it is the leaders of Russia, China, North Korea, and others who have not. That is the company that is being kept by so many Republican Senators today. And that is going to do ongoing damage to our ability around the world, as the world's oldest democracy, to stand up for the interests of liberty, freedom, and democracy.

I fear that that is not even the most damaging thing that has happened as a result of this fraud that is being perpetrated on the American people. The biggest danger is undermining the confidence of the American people themselves, or large numbers of the American people, in the outcome of this election, seeding this false narrative that somehow Donald Trump was actually the winner and that Joe Biden was somehow an illegitimate President-to-be.

If you look at the recent polling in the last 48 hours, what you find is that 70 percent of Republicans believe this was not a clear and fair election. That is two times as many as before the election, and that is when Donald Trump was telling everybody that, if he lost, it meant the election was rigged.

Are we really, through our silence or sometimes encouragement, going to seed the idea that because Donald Trump lost the election it was rigged? All you have to look at is the frivolous claims being made in courts around the United States and the reaction to those claims by judges, appointed by Democrats and Republicans alike, to realize what a charade this is.

Joe Biden, as a candidate, has said he wants to bring the country together. He and KAMALA HARRIS want to find a way to bring us together to find common ground. And he is looking for the opportunity to work on both sides of the aisle here in the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives to address urgent matters before our country.

So I ask my Republican Senate colleagues: How are you going to take the

extended hand of Joe Biden when you are telling so many of your constituents back at home that this is an illegitimate election? How are you going to do that?

What we have seen in the aftermath of this election is scary because we saw so many times over the last 4 years that our Republican Senate colleagues refused to stand up to the abuse of power of this administration, things that if the Obama administration ever thought of doing, they would be out there every day crying foul and abuse of power. But everybody enabled that conduct. And now, after the election, when Joe Biden was already 5 million votes ahead in the national vote and winning the electoral college, you would think this is a moment for everybody to come together to give the next President of the United States a chance.

I think the scary thing of what this shows is that the Republican Party has become the party of Donald Trump. I just urge my colleagues to think about the consequences of feeding into this fraud that Donald Trump was actually the one who was elected, because what you will be saying there to the 72 million Americans who voted for Donald Trump is that he is, in fact, the rightful President, and he will therefore also continue to call the shots within the Republican Party. He is doing that now, even after he has lost an election. So I just urge my colleagues to think about what they are doing each day that goes by that reinforces this false and fraudulent claim—how it is harming our democracy, how it is harming our national security, how it is going to impede Joe Biden's ability to reach out to our Republican colleagues. It is not because he doesn't want to—he does—but because you will have undermined your ability to do it by telling tens and millions of Americans that somehow this was an illegitimate election.

I ask, I implore my colleagues to think more about this as every hour goes by, because every hour that this lie continues and persists is another hour that you are harming the health of our democracy and our country.

Thank you.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to conclude my remarks and that the Senator from Minnesota be able to conclude her remarks prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMPACT AID CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this summer, Senator SMITH and I introduced the Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act. If enacted, this bill would provide much needed relief to school districts participating in the Impact Aid Program. And given the many other

strains they are feeling due to the ongoing pandemic, it can't come soon enough.

By way of background, public school districts on military installations, Tribal land, and other Federal public property, or with students living on these Federal properties, can participate in the Impact Aid Program, which includes nearly 40 school districts in the State of South Dakota.

This program is of vital importance to the financial well-being of these schools, as it reimburses them for revenue shortfalls due to the reduction or absence of a local tax base because of the presence of Federal property.

In order to determine grant awards through this program, school districts must annually calculate the number of federally connected students that they have enrolled. While generally a prudent exercise, during a pandemic, conducting this type of count has presented a new set of challenges for administrators.

The Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act is a commonsense, bipartisan approach that would not cost a dime yet would provide financial stability to school districts by allowing them to use last year's student headcounts on impact aid applications that they are completing this fall. Doing so would prevent the reporting of noticeable, but likely temporary, declines in student enrollment, which would lead to student reduced impact aid payments next year.

Distance learning has made collecting student data more challenging as well. Districts are also experiencing declines in student headcount due to parents choosing to temporarily homeschool their children during the pandemic.

Unless Congress allows these school districts to use last year's student headcounts on this year's impact aid applications, schools will have the undue burden of collecting this data during an otherwise challenging time and could very well experience a reduced impact aid payment next fall. Our legislation will ensure that they have certainty in the near term.

A companion of our bill passed the House by unanimous consent on October 2, and impact aid school districts are eager for the Senate to do the same. I hope we can get that done today.

I yield to the Senator from Minnesota for some comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise in support of my colleague Senator THUNE's request to pass the Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act, H.R. 8472, by unanimous consent.

As we continue to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, we need to support schools so that students can keep learning. In Congress, we have a special obligation to federally impacted schools. As my colleague Senator THUNE has said, these are schools that

are located in districts with a significant amount of nontaxable land, which puts them at a significant disadvantage for raising education revenue. And we make this right by providing direct Federal payments which are crucial for their operation.

What this bill does—what our bill does—is to provide a commonsense change. It allows school districts to use student counts from the previous academic year when they submit their impact aid applications. In light of the challenges of doing a safe and active count in the midst of this coronavirus pandemic, this only makes sense.

I thank my colleague from North Dakota, Senator THUNE. I have been so glad to work with him to support school districts that rely on Impact Aid Programs and to promote financial stability for these school districts during the pandemic.

I hope we can pass this bill today and get it signed into law.

I yield.

Mr. THUNE. I thank the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8472, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8472) to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2022 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2021 application.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 8472) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Aileen Mercedes Cannon, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John

Hoeven, Jerry Moran, Lamar Alexander, Mike Braun, David Perdue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Aileen Mercedes Cannon, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 227 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Barrasso	Feinstein	McSally
Blackburn	Fischer	Murkowski
Blunt	Gardner	Murphy
Boozman	Graham	Perdue
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Capito	Hassan	Roberts
Carper	Hawley	Romney
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rosen
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Coons	Inhofe	Rubio
Cornyn	Johnson	Sasse
Cortez Masto	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Kennedy	Shelby
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Leahy	Tillis
Daines	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	Manchin	Warner
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—21

Baldwin	Brown	Duckworth
Bennet	Cardin	Gillibrand
Booker	Casey	Hirono